

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

Teaching Utah with Primary Sources

Utah Studies Core Standards
UT Strand 3,
Standards 3.2 and 3.3

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

By Carley B. Smith

Roosevelt's Tree Army

During the lean years of the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) put thousands of young American men to work in Utah, where they completed hundreds of forestry, road-building, irrigation, outdoor recreation, and other public works projects. Through their work, the CCC men helped local communities across the state. Much of the infrastructure they built in Utah is still in use today.

The Great Depression

At the end of 1929, a series of economic misfortunes in America culminated in the start of the Great Depression, the worst economic depression in the history of the country. The Black Thursday stock market crash in October of 1929, a widespread drought that affected the Great Plains region, and the financial failure of over 30 percent of U.S. banks resulted in an economic downturn that brought the nation to its knees through the 1930s.

The situation became progressively worse in the early 1930s, the unemployment rate in the country rose to 25 percent by 1933 and millions of people became homeless. In the Southern Plains, severe drought, wind, and dust storms created an environmental catastrophe known as the Dust Bowl, which claimed lives and destroyed farming livelihoods. People flocked from the failing countryside to cities looking for work. The Hoover administration tried to remedy the situation by providing government loans to banks and other businesses, but despite these efforts, the situation worsened.

The New Deal

Franklin D. Roosevelt became President in 1933 and immediately took steps to remedy the country's economic woes. His approach was a series of work programs, laws, institutions, and reforms designed to stimulate economic recovery. One example was the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), which worked to stabilize banks and protect people's funds. This collection of

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Questions for Young Historians

- Why did young men join the CCC?
- What types of homes or areas did many CCC men come from?
- How was the CCC like the military? How was it different?
- What was it like to live in a CCC camp?
- How did CCC enrollees benefit from their time in the CCC?
- What do you think it was like for enrollees from other states to come to Utah? What were their first impressions?
- How did the CCC affect Utah, its communities, and its economy?
- Do you think you have benefitted from the CCC? Have you ever seen or used a CCC work project, such as a campground?
- Based on what you have learned, should the CCC be created again? Why or why not?

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actions, called the New Deal, included the creation of federal jobs and infrastructure programs. The CCC was one of the most successful New Deal job programs.

The Civilian Conservation Corps

Over nine years of operation, from 1933 to 1942, the CCC hired thousands of unemployed men from across the country and put them to work on resource conservation and infrastructure projects. The CCC embraced a philosophy of transforming boys into well-rounded and hard-working men and conserving natural resources. The organization recruited unemployed, unmarried men between the ages of 18-25 (eventually broadened to 17-28) to work on a wide range of projects including forestry, soil conservation, road, bridge, irrigation structure construction and maintenance, and recreation projects. A quota of WWI veterans was also included for each state's rosters. The men who signed up or enrolled with the CCC were often referred to as "enrollees". Many of these men came from impoverished and urban areas and their families were on relief programs. The men were required to send most of their wages home to support them. About \$22-25 of \$30 (wages were higher in later years) earned a month were sent home to the men's families. If a man had no family, \$25 per month would be placed into an account for him to access after being discharged. Some CCC camps worked on state projects but most CCC labor was administered under the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture with most projects under the National Park Service (NPS), the United States Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service (later the Natural Resources Conservation Service), the Division of Grazing (later the Bureau of Land Management), and the U.S. Biological Survey (later the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Because these agencies had a greater presence and land base in western states, most CCC camps were in the West.

While the CCC men were a civilian workforce, much of camp life was structured around military schedules and trappings. They wore issued uniforms for work and dress events. The camps were initially under the direction of a Commanding Officer from the Army and there was a hierarchy of supervisors, foremen, and more experienced men (Local Experienced Men or LEM's) that oversaw the leadership and training of the young men. The CCC groups were designated by company numbers and the men lived in camps. There were barracks where CCC men slept and mess halls where they ate their meals. Men signed up for the CCC for 6-month periods with the option of joining again in later periods if they had performed their duties well. The CCC enrollees worked about 160 to 170 hours a month and the \$30 wage per month (equal to about \$600 today) was considered decent for the time - especially because the workers were provided meals, medical care, lodging, clothing, and later in the program, dental care as well. The men saved wages that were not sent home (roughly \$5 per month) or spent them on entertainment, incidentals, and toiletries.

About The Sources

CCC Guides, Handbooks, and Manuals:

Books and manuals published by the government offer insight about how enrollees lived and CCC beliefs.

Photographs: Historic images help students interpret life and work in the CCC.

Oral History: A first-hand account of a Utahn who worked in the CCC.

Newspaper Articles: These articles shed light on local opinions about the CCC in Utah and inform about work projects completed.

CCC Newsletters: These newsletters were written by CCC enrollees and contain a wealth of information about camp life.

Assessment Ideas

Think-pair-share

Gallery walk

Map CCC projects

Write a letter home from a CCC camp

Research CCC works near your community

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The CCC in Utah

Utah was hit hard by the effects of the Great Depression. By 1932 more than 30 percent of the workforce in Utah was unemployed. The fall in the price of metals led to a decline in mining and the agricultural economy was also in a downturn. CCC activities started with the construction of twenty-six Utah camps in 1933, most of which were under the Forest Service. In the first enrollment period, the summer of 1933, 5,500 men served in the CCC in Utah and over 3,600 of these men were from Utah. About a third of these Utahns were LEMs, local men with necessary skills such as carpentry, horsemanship, mining, and heavy equipment operation who could set an example for the younger, inexperienced men. LEMs were often older men and did not have to qualify under the standard CCC age and familial status stipulations. Men from outside Utah came from many different states. Outside states that contributed large numbers of workers included Kentucky, New York, Ohio, and others. For many of these young men, the rugged and arid Utah landscape must have been a stark change from what they were used to!

From 1933 to 1942, Utah hosted a total of 116 camps with 30 to 35 camps open at any given time. Every Utah county, except for Rich County, had a camp at one time or another. Over its 9 years of operation in Utah, the CCC provided employment for 22,074 Utahans and 23,833 men from other states. Utah was part of CCC Army Corps Area 9, a region that also encompassed Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and part of Wyoming. For most of the period the CCC was in operation, Utah and part of Wyoming were within the Fort Douglas District and overseen by officials in Salt Lake City. Fort Douglas served as a training camp and headquarters for the District.

The CCC contributed to the economies of Utah communities in several ways. The organization provided employment to Utah men and money to their families, which contributed an estimated \$125,000 (about 2.5 million dollars today) a month into Utah's economy. Camps bought tools, vehicles, supplies, and heavy equipment from nearby towns. Several Utah companies also received contracts to supply goods to the camps. The camps worked on projects that improved both state and local economies such as road construction, rangeland improvements for livestock, and reservoirs to irrigate agricultural land. These economic contributions helped to bolster the popularity of the CCC camps in the Beehive State, even in very small and isolated Utah communities.

CCC camps were very simple and practical in design and function. "Wooden camps" served as base camps and were constructed of more permanent wooden buildings. The Army issued standard plans for the design of wooden camps which were usually set up in a U-shape with approximately 24 buildings. There were usually three or four open plan barracks that could house up to fifty men each for a total of 200 men per camp, plus administrative offices, a kitchen and mess hall, latrine and shower building, and garages and shops. Later in the CCC period, camps

For Further Exploration

[Map of CCC Camps in Utah](#), Washington County Historical Society

[List of CCC Camps in Utah](#), CCC Legacy

Kenneth Baldridge, [The Civilian Conservation Corps](#), *Utah History Encyclopedia*

[Civilian Conservation Corps](#), NPS, Zion National Park

[A Century of Stewardship: Civilian Conservation Corps on the Uinta National Forest](#), USFS, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Beth Olsen, [The CCC's Six Years in Pleasant Grove](#)

[Civilian Conservation Corps Uniforms Handbook: A Guide for Historians and Costumed Interpreters](#)

[The Living New Deal: Projects in Utah](#)

American Experience (PBS), [The 1930s: The Civilian Conservation Corps](#)

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added recreation buildings. "Tent camps" or spike camps were cheaper to construct, and less permanent so they could be moved closer to work sites as crews moved around. Tent camps were usually 20 to 25 tents that fulfilled the same purposes as the above wooden camp buildings. Wooden camps were used more in the winter and cold locations and tent camps more in the warm summer months. Most often, camps were built quickly by LEMs before the rest of the workers arrived. But some camps were not built until after the arrival of the CCC enrollees.

The first CCC camp in Utah was about 10 miles up American Fork Canyon in Granite Flat. This camp was first occupied in May of 1933 by Company 940, which included 140 CCC men and 85 LEMs from Salt Lake County and only lasted the first six-month period. The camp was dedicated on June 28th in a typical ceremony that included a flag raising, dances, speeches, and athletic competitions. Of the 20 Forest Service camps established during the First Enrollment Period, 17 of them were abandoned by the end of the Second Period. These camps were very temporary in nature and moved depending on where work projects were located.

A typical CCC work day would start early in the morning. After breakfast, the workers would load trucks with supplies and water for the workday and travel in the back of the trucks to work sites. CCC work projects were overseen by crew foremen and CCC men worked 40-hour weeks with travel, 6-8 hours of labor, and a half hour lunch break.

CCC Work in Utah

The CCC contributed to many different types of work projects in Utah. The Forest Service used more CCC labor than any other agency, and Utah was home to over forty-seven Forest Service CCC camps. One of the most famous tasks of the CCC was tree planting, the source of the CCC nickname "Roosevelt's Tree Army". Over 9 years of operations, the organization planted 2,246,100,000 trees nationwide, 3,255,000 of which were in Utah. The CCC also constructed many roads, stock trails, and recreation sites for the Forest Service. In Utah, F-30, Company 958 built campgrounds in several canyons (Hobble Creek, Payson, Daniels Canyon, etc.) and built open amphitheaters at Mutual Dell and Aspen Grove. These amphitheaters are a good example of the masonry work for which the CCC is well-known. The CCC also helped complete the 1,500-person campground in the Fish Lake National Forest that was described at the time as the largest Forest Service recreation project in the region.

The CCC contributed labor to many well-known Utah road projects. They constructed all-weather roads around Boulder, Utah, to allow year-round access to a part of Utah that was very remote and often isolated in the winter. The CCC also built roads in Emery County to access coal and timber and several Skyline Drives including the ones in Davis and Sanpete Counties.

Recommended Readings

Robert S. McPherson and Jesse Grover, "[Turning 'the Picture a Whole Lot': The CCC Invasion of Southeastern Utah, 1933-1942](#)," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 84, no. 2, 2016.

Beth R. Olsen, "[Utah's CCCs: The Conservators' Medium for Young Men, Nature, Economy, and Freedom](#)," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 62, no. 3, 1994.

Kenneth W. Baldridge, "[Reclamation Work of the Civilian Conservation Corps 1933-1942](#)," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 39, no. 3, 1971.

Twila Van Leer, "[CCC Camps Changed Utah - And Lives of Workers](#)," *Deseret News*, August 8, 1995.

Reuben Wadsworth, "[New Deal Day, Relics and Remembrances of the Civilian Conservation Corps](#)," *St. George News*, May 21, 2017.

Reuben Wadsworth, "[CCC Day: Leeds, the 'Taj Mahal' of Southern Utah's Civilian Conservation Corps Legacies](#)," *St. George News*, December 31, 2017.

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Flooding and soil erosion ravage arid desert environments and they can contribute to events that threaten the loss of livelihood and property. In Utah, several erosion CCC camps rose to the challenge of combating these forces of nature. These camps were run as Soil Conservation Corps camps, State Erosion camps and surprisingly, the CCC also operated out of Private Erosion camps to help private landowners address the problem. The CCC camps placed riprap along the Virgin River, terraced the mountainsides in Willard Basin, and stabilized many canyons in Utah.

The first NPS CCC camp in Utah worked on projects in Zion National Park. Crews improved campgrounds, remodeled buildings, laid out parking lots, constructed the South Campground Amphitheater, and built culverts and curbs. Other CCC NPS camps helped with work at Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks, and Arches.

One of the CCC tasks most appreciated in Utah were efforts made to make grazing improvements throughout the State. This work was usually overseen by the Division of Grazing but similar tasks were also undertaken by camps run by other agencies. Workers poisoned rodents, insects, and plant pests, and built corrals and stock tanks. Many of these projects overlapped with erosion control and drought relief efforts.

The Bureau of Reclamation, is tasked with the engineering and construction of irrigation projects such as dams, canals, and reservoirs in the West. Most desert areas of the West could not have been settled without the efforts of this agency. After World War I, the demand for agricultural products declined. This decline combined with unsustainable farming practices and the economic downturn in the United States to take a toll on Utah farmers. Many farmers and water districts in Utah did not have money to make improvements or maintain the irrigation infrastructure that provided water to their crops. To help this dire situation, the CCC established several drought relief and irrigation camps. Two of these were camp DBR-5 in Heber, which worked on the Strawberry Feeder Canal from Currant Creek, and DBR-6 in Ephraim, which constructed the Ephraim and Spring City Tunnels. Other Reclamation CCC projects in Utah included the Yellowstone Feeder Canal near Duchesne, the parapet on top of Moon Lake Dam, and clearing the reservoir area for Deer Creek Reservoir.

The CCC crews also offered help during emergencies such as search and rescue, fire suppression, and snow removal. CCC workers were usually trained to fight fires, so if the need arose, there was a ready source of roughly 5,500 men for this work. The drought conditions of the 1930s made much of Utah susceptible to wildfires and the CCC logged many hours performing fire suppression duties in 1934 and 1936. These crews made it possible to attack fires immediately before they grew into large blazes. The winter of 1936-1937 was one of the coldest on record with unpredictable blizzards. During this winter, CCC crews worked in temperatures sometimes 30 to 40 below zero to clear snow from roads, rescue stranded families, and haul feed to herds of livestock. One report on some of the winter's activities estimated that 154 CCC men had cleared 3,000 miles of road in Utah and Nevada. This cleared the way for the rescue of 428,000 sheep and 27,000 cattle and potentially saved stock owners \$5,000,000 at the 1937 price of livestock.

Diversity in the CCC

The CCC included men from diverse racial groups. Over the 9 years of its operation, the CCC employed over 200,000 African Americans and 80,000 Native Americans. During the 1930s, African Americans experienced an unemployment rate two to three times that of white Americans. The CCC allowed enrollment of African American men but limited enrollment to 10 percent of the CCC. This ratio was based on the racial composition of the U.S. at the time, not on unemployment rates for this community. Most African American CCC men were placed in camps in the South, while some went to California camps. All CCC camps were racially segregated at the beginning of the program, but by 1935, CCC camps and companies had been integrated. In 1935, several African-American men that

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had been transferred from California to Utah experienced local hostility and asked to return to California. In general, African American CCC men were not welcomed by communities in Utah in the 1930s. There were no segregated Latino camps in the CCC, several of the CCC men at Zion camp NP-4 have Latino names and were noted in photographs as Latino. Many of these men came to Utah from Southern California.

The CCC also established Native American work camps on tribal reservations that were supervised by the Office of Indian Affairs (later the Bureau of Indian Affairs). Utah possibly had two of these camps on the Ute Tribe's Uintah and Ouray Reservation. Native American CCC men usually lived at home and worked part-time with the CCC so there was less need for formal camp buildings. Because of the rough terrain and remote locations, work on the reservations was very difficult. These Uintah and Ouray crews built roads including those to access tribal timber, constructed phone lines, and worked on springs. Eventually 746 Native American men were enrolled in the program in Utah.

Other CCC Activities

Outside of work hours, the CCC provided and encouraged men to participate in a variety of other activities. Camps organized classes for the men to expand their proficiency in a variety of academic and vocational skills. A significant number of CCC men were unable to read or write, and classes were offered to improve literacy. Over the 9 years of operation of the CCC, about 80,000 illiterate CCC men learned to read. A diverse array of other types of classes were offered such as shorthand, woodworking, diesel engine repairs, typing, aeronautics, physiology, photography, first aid, mining, and welding. These classes were taught by leaders in the camps such as supervisors, foremen, and LEMs, and by members of surrounding communities. Workers who stayed past one 6-month period could take advanced classes.

CCC men typically had free time in the evenings and weekends. Many CCC men worked on camp projects or on community volunteer projects on Saturdays. In Utah, these volunteer projects greatly improved camp relationships with surrounding communities. In their free time, CCC volunteers helped with improvements at Pleasant Grove Elementary School, Dixie College, and St. George City Park, and also helped with landscaping projects and church construction.

CCC men enjoyed leisure activities like reading, hiking, card games, religious services on Sundays, and attended local dances and events. CCC Company 958 in Provo even had a pet elk named Peavie. Sports events were sponsored by the camps and most had baseball and basketball teams that would compete with local church leagues and other camps. Other popular CCC sports were wrestling, boxing, and track and field.

Local Perspectives on the CCC

Although most Utahns recognized the need for work relief programs in the 1930s, many had reservations initially about the arrival of the CCC camps. Particularly in small towns, residents were concerned that the CCC would have a negative influence on community morals and were hesitant to welcome young men from out of state into their communities. Men from New York and New Jersey were particularly viewed with suspicion and many of these men may have come from youth detention camps back East. Some camps did earn a reputation for being unruly and having poor leadership. One of these was the Arches CCC camp which was eventually closed because of negative inspection reports. Many of the unruly young men experienced a positive transformation of their behaviors and attitudes the longer they worked with the CCC and lived in communities. Several even attended local churches and were permitted to date young women in the communities. Over time, most communities grew to accept the camps

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in their midst and welcomed the positive contributions to their local infrastructure and economies. Some CCC men even married local women and stayed in Utah.

The End of the CCC

In the early 1940s, the CCC funding decreased and camps gradually closed. By that time, the economy was doing much better and there was less need for the program. In July of 1942, the last camp closed as America turned its attention toward World War II. Many of the camp workers joined the military or went to work on jobs related to the war. By the end of the CCC's 9 years, most Americans agreed that it was one of the most successful New Deal programs. The CCC men had proven to be a valuable workforce. They completed many infrastructure projects that brought great economic and social benefits. Most of the roads and structures that they built serve as a testament to their hard work and are still used today. CCC enrollees often arrived malnourished, without jobs, money, or marketable skills. These same men left the program in better health than when they joined, with vocational and academic training, and usually obtained good jobs after they completed their time with the CCC.

Sources

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STUDENT READING: Roosevelt's Tree Army

During the Great Depression, more than a quarter of the workers in the United States and a third of workers in Utah were unemployed, and banks ran out of money. Many families became homeless. Thousands of people moved from rural areas to the cities to look for work as a massive drought and dust storms ruined crops. Franklin D. Roosevelt became president in 1933 and created programs to improve the economy and provide jobs to support families under what was called the New Deal. One of the most well-known and popular work programs of the New Deal was the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC.

The CCC operated from 1933 to 1942. Unmarried men from 18-25 could sign up for 6 months at a time. The men signed up or enrolled with the CCC so were often referred to as "enrollees." They worked 8 hours a day, Monday through Friday (sometimes on Saturdays), and no more than 170 hours per month. They were paid \$30 per month (equal to about \$600 today), and \$25 of this went directly home to their families. This left the enrollees with about \$5 per month for pocket money. The men were also provided with clothes, food, medical care, and dental care. The men lived in camps that were organized like military camps and run by different federal government agencies like the Forest Service and the National Park Service. Military officers oversaw the camps, and the crews were run by foremen. Local Experienced Men (LEMs) who were often older, local men with specific skills like mining, heavy machine operation, or carpentry, worked with enrollees as well. The camps were either made of wood or tents and included open barracks where the men would sleep, a mess hall, latrine, shower building, work buildings, and administrative offices.

Some CCC men came to Utah from eastern and southern states but many (over half during the first 6-month enrollment period) were from Utah. There were also Native American camps on the Uintah and Ouray Ute Reservation near Duchesne that were run by the Office of Indian Affairs. 746 Native American men worked from those camps in the 9 years of the CCC. Some Latino men from Southern California served in Utah, mostly at the Zion Park camps. There were not many African American CCC men in Utah, but over 200,000 African American men served in the CCC in other states, mostly in the South and California.

CCC men are most well-known for their work with the Forest Service, which included tree planting and grazing projects. They also worked on drought projects, such as terracing hillsides to prevent soil erosion, killing insect and rodent pests, and building watering holes for livestock. They built canals and helped with dams and reservoirs for agricultural irrigation. They worked on outdoor recreation projects including campgrounds and amphitheaters. CCC crews were also an important resource for emergency response. Recruits were trained in fire suppression and helped fight many wildfires in Utah. In the record-breaking winter of 1937, CCC men helped clear snow-packed roads, rescued stranded families, and took hay out to feed cows and sheep stuck in the snow. The men also helped with volunteer community projects. In Utah, the CCC helped with construction at Pleasant Grove Elementary School, built churches, made improvements at Dixie College, and contributed to many landscaping projects including St. George City Park.

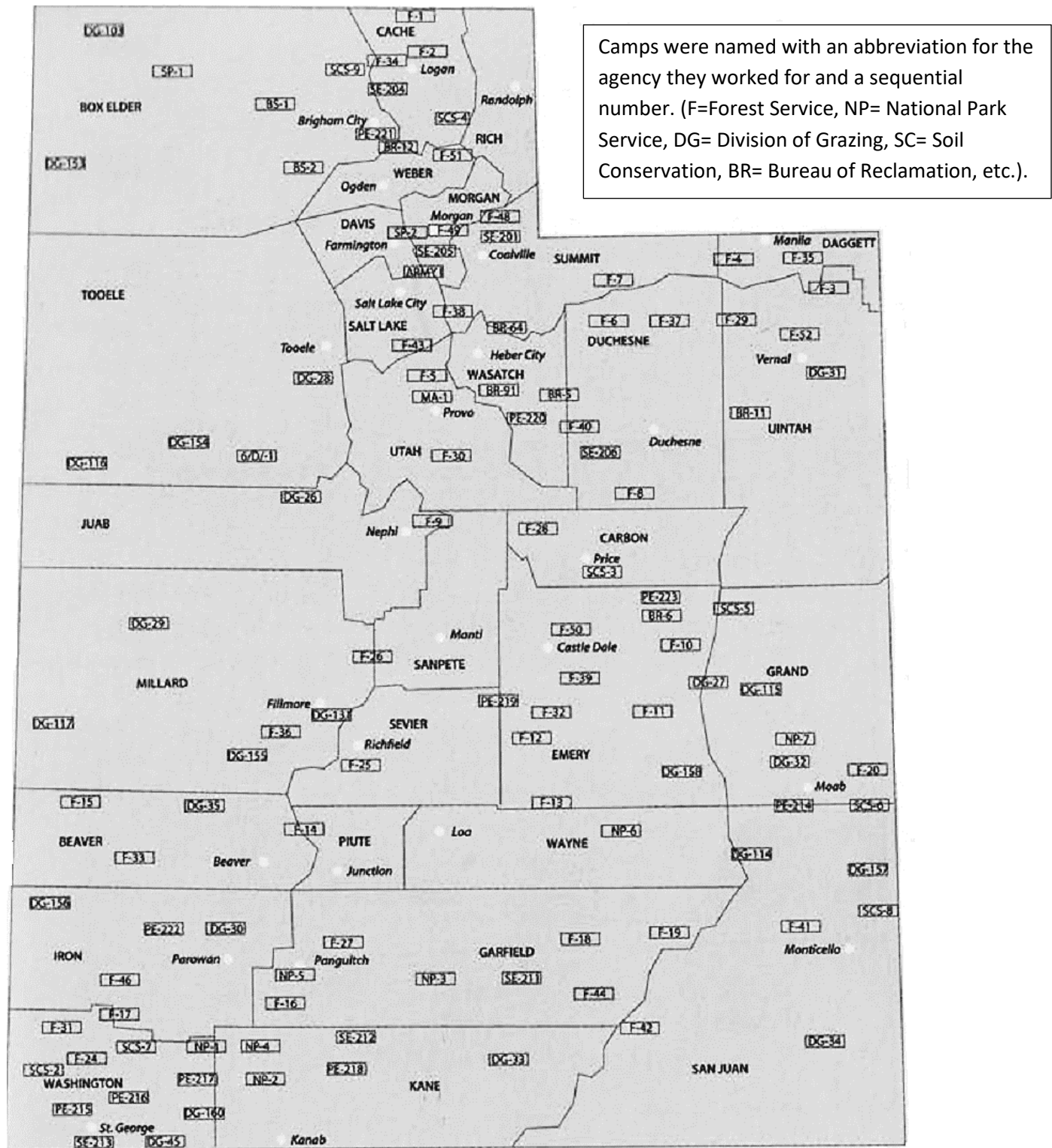
The CCC men benefitted in many ways: their health improved as they received regular meals and medical care, they learned discipline and good work ethics, and gained skills that helped them find future jobs. More than 80,000 recruits learned to read and write while in the CCC! Other classes included typing, physiology, wood working, heavy machinery operation, and more. These training programs prepared the young men to compete for good jobs after they left the CCC. In their free time, the men also participated in sports such as baseball, basketball, track and field, and more.

The CCC made lasting contributions to Utah. Many Utah communities were nervous at first about the thought of the camps bringing outsiders into their communities. But by 1942, most Utahns agreed that the CCC had greatly helped Utah. It brought money into local economies through the purchase of camp equipment and supplies. The monthly income that was sent home from local CCC men helped many Utah families. And the CCC's conservation and public improvement projects benefitted local communities. Many CCC projects are still visible, and are still used, today.

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CCC Camps in Utah 1933-1942

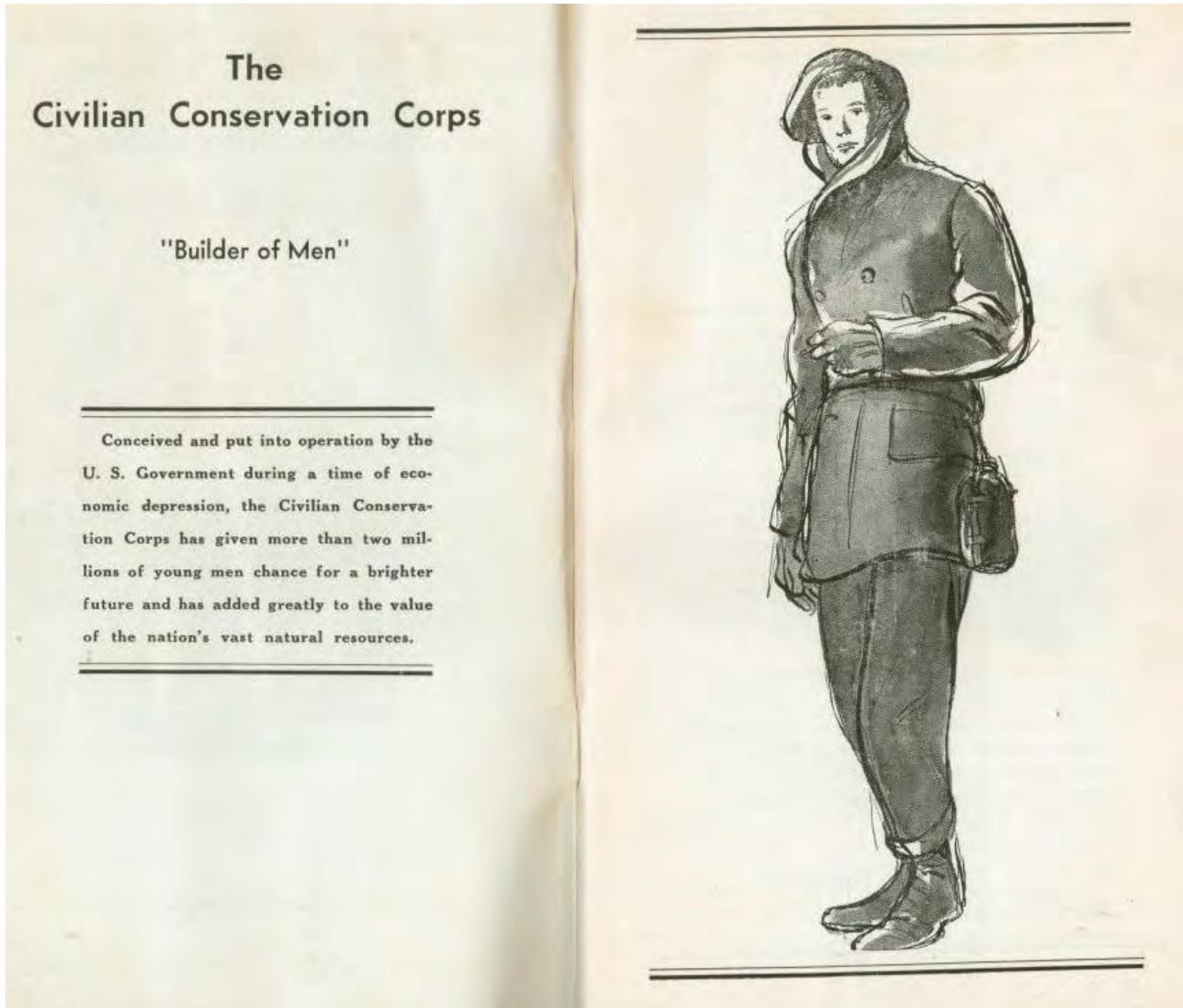


Source: Baldrige, Kenneth W. *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah: Remembering Nine Years of Achievement, 1933-1942* (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society and University of Utah Press, 2019), p. 399.

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CCC Ideas



Handbook: "The Civilian Conservation Corps 'Builder of Men' ...put into operation by the U.S. government during a time of economic depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps has given more than two millions of young men chance for a brighter future and has added greatly to the value of the nation's vast natural resources."

Source: Ray Hoyt, *Your CCC: A Handbook for Enrollees*, Happy Days Publishing, Washington D.C., 1940. <https://digitalarchives.broward.org/digital/collection/ccc/id/187> Accessed 11/21/2020

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Excerpts from *A Manual for Instructors in Civilian Conservation Corps Camps*, 1935

“The importance of learning to think cannot be overestimated. For no person is this more true than for the worker who must adapt himself to constantly and rapidly changing conditions and demands. This applies particularly to C.C.C. camp enrollees. Skill of hand is still necessary and important, but the ability to get, know, and use facts in doing work is becoming increasingly important.

The mind builds its own processes, its own way of handling itself. It is a mental switchboard that wires itself through experiences. It establishes its own bonds, its own connections which we here call habits of thinking and doing. Habits are acquired only by practice. No practice, no habits. Wrong practices, wrong habits. Habits are much more easy to learn than to unlearn. The vital thing is to develop correct habits of doing and thinking. Like all other people, C. C. C. enrollees may have developed bad habits of thinking. The most important problem for the instructor is to displace bad habits of thinking and doing by substituting good habits.”

Source: M.R. Bass, *A Manual for Instructors in Civilian Conservation Corps Camps*, p51. – United States. Office of Education, United States Division of Vocational Education, U.S. Printing Office, 1935.

<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=mOdBAAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&pg=GBS.PA51>

CCC Ideas Discussion Questions

- What do the excerpts from the two manuals/handbooks tell you about the basic beliefs, philosophies, or goals of the CCC?
- Do you think that the CCC was successful in their goals? Why or why not?

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CCC Uniforms

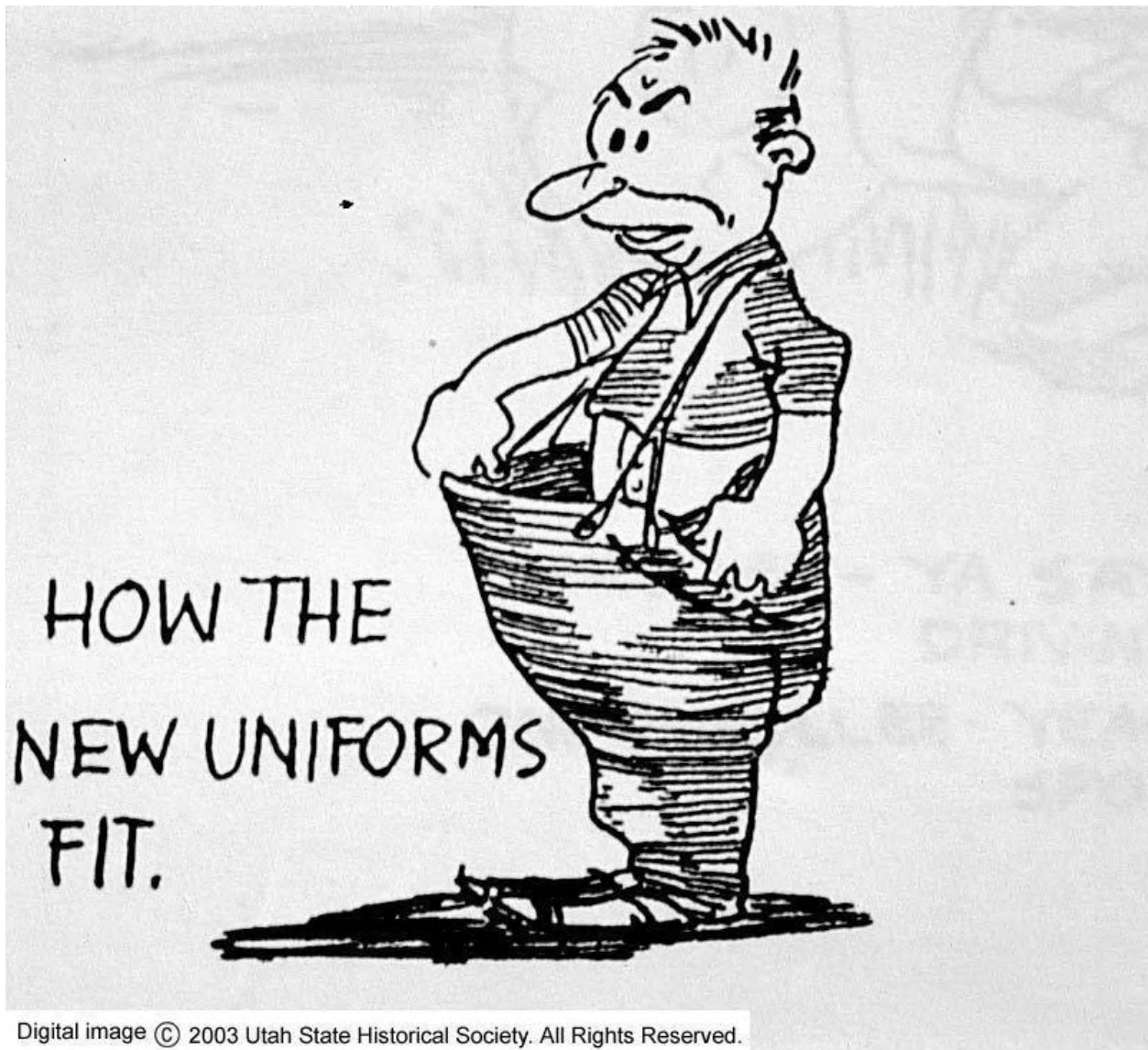


Photograph: Two CCC men standing in one pair of old hand-me-down pants that were worn during WWI.

Source: "CCC Slide Show," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426803&page=3&q=ccc+slide&facet_setname_s=dha_ccc

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CCC cartoon, poking fun at newly issued uniforms.

Source: "CCC Slide Show," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426812&page=2&q=ccc+slide&facet_setname_s=dha_ccc

CCC Uniforms Discussion Questions

- Why do you think that the hand-me-down uniforms from WWI soldiers did not fit the new CCC enrollees?
- What purpose do you think humor served for new young men in the CCC?

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CCC Camps



Photograph: CCC wooden camp in Utah.

Source: "CCC Slide Show," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426793&page=2&q=ccc+slide+show>

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Photograph: CCC tent camp.

Source: "CCC Camp," Uintah County Regional History Center, 1933-1939, 2017.

<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=1248911&q=ccc+camp>

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Photograph: A CCC cricket camp was set up on the Dave Karren Jr. Ranch on Blue Mountain. Cricket camps were set up to control cricket populations that ate crops. The men burned vegetation and sprinkled the insects with chemicals to kill them.

Source: "CCC Cricket Camp on Blue Mountain," Uintah County Regional History Center, 1937 or 1938, 2020.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=1588356&page=3&q=ccc+camp>

CCC Camps Discussion Questions

- What were CCC camp buildings like?
- What are some characteristics of how they were built?
- Can you think of reasons why they might be built this way?
- Why were some camps built of wood and others used tents?

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CCC Camp Life



Digital image © 2003 Utah State Historical Society. All Rights Reserved.

Photograph: CCC officer inspecting the men in a barrack at a CCC camp in Utah.

Source: "CCC Slide Show, Barracks Inspection, Tree Army," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426826>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



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Photograph: Group of CCC men sitting at a table for a meal in the mess hall.

Source: "Jack Conway," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1941, 2003.
https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=427263&q=ccc+mess+hall&facet_setname_s=dha_ccc

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: Crew of CCC workers eating in the camp mess hall, still under construction.

Source: "Avar Rogers, Zion and Cedar Breaks Camps," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1934 or 1935, 2003. https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=427761&q=ccc+mess+hall&facet_setname_s=dha_ccc

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: CCC men in the camp library.

Source: "CCC Slide Show, CCC Library," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426828&q=ccc+library>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: CCC workers exercising outside their barracks at Ferron Camp in Emery County, Utah.

Source: "CCC Slide Show," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426837&q=ccc+slide+show+>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: Two CCC men posing for a photo with a guitar at either the Zion or Cedar Breaks Camp.

Source: "Avar Rogers, Zion and Cedar Breaks Camp," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1934 or 1935, 2003. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=427803&q=ccc+guitar>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



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Photograph: CCC enrollees playing basketball.

Source: "CCC Slide Show Pinto Side Camp," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1940, 2003.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426810&q=ccc+slide+show+basketball>

Camp Life Discussion Questions

- After looking at these pictures, what do you think living in a CCC camp was like?
- What sorts of activities did CCC members participate in when they were not working?

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

CCC Work



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Photograph: CCC enrollee at work planting trees.

Source: "CCC Slide Show," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426789&q=ccc+slide+show+tree+planting>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

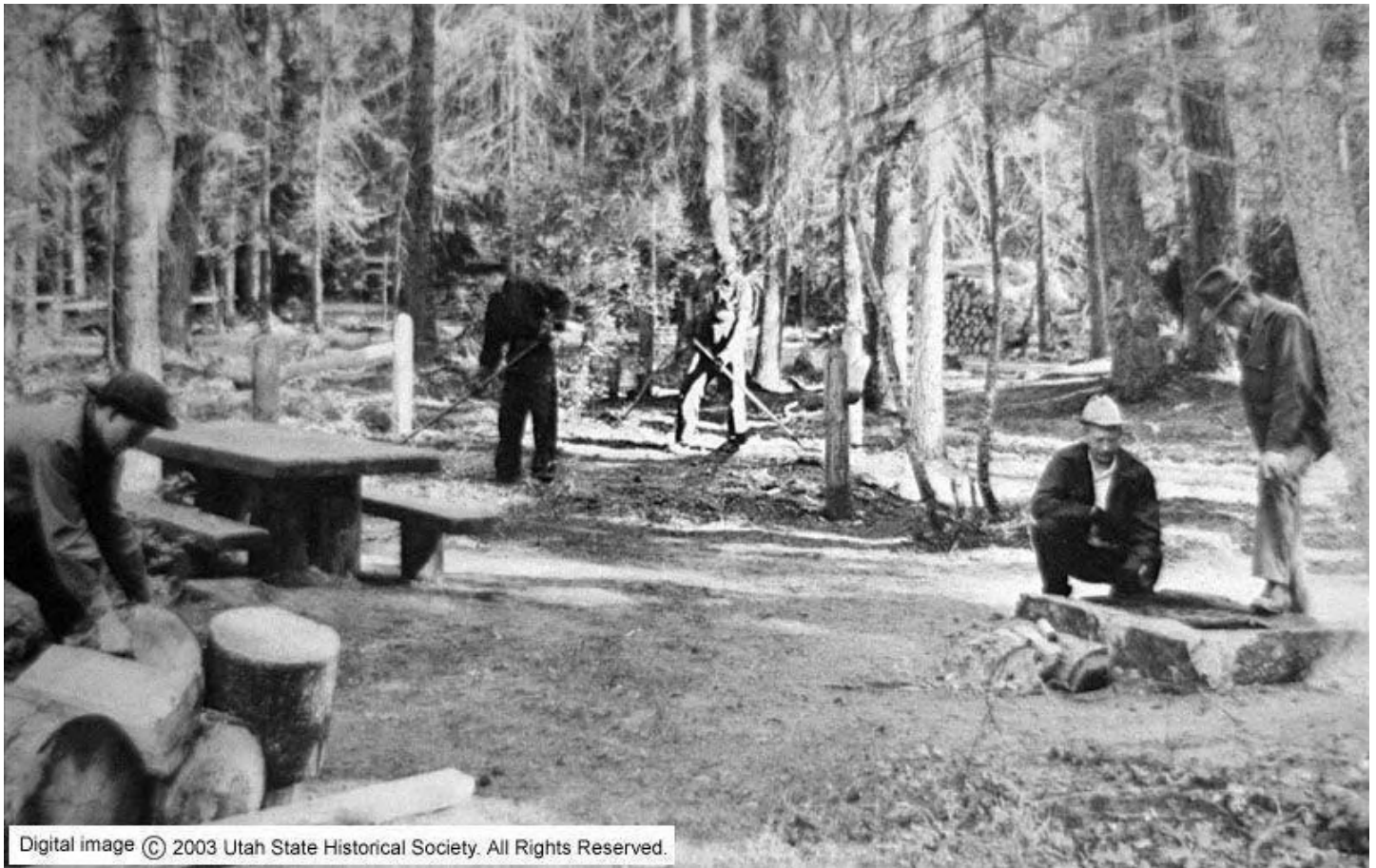


Photograph: CCC working building terraces on mountainside in Davis County, Utah.

Source: "CCC Slide Show," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426787&q=ccc+slide+show+terracing>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

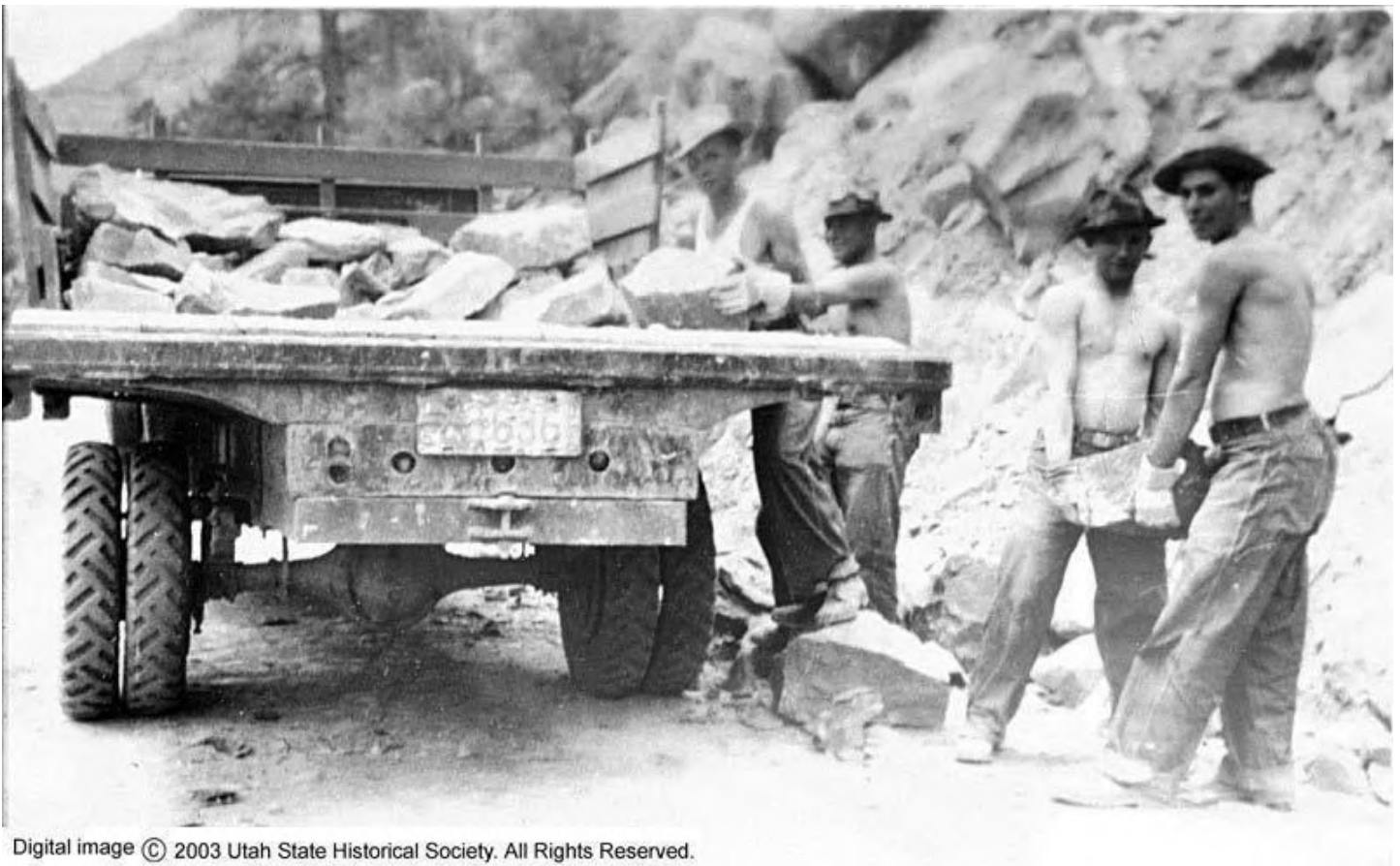


Photograph: CCC workers building a campground in an unknown Utah canyon.

Source: "CCC Slide Show," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426798&q=ccc+slide+show+campground>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



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Photograph: CCC workers loading rocks into a truck.

Source: "CCC Slide Show," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426829&q=ccc+slide+show>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: Deer Creek Reservoir being built in 1931. The CCC helped with work for the reservoir.

Source: "Deer Creek Dam p.2," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2008.
https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=438568&q=deer+creek+reservoir&facet_format_t=%22image%2Fjpeg%22&facet_setname_s=dc_%2A+OR+dha_%2A

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: Storm Mountain Amphitheater, built by the CCC in 1937, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah.

Source: The Living New Deal. Storm Mountain Amphitheater – Big Cottonwood Canyon, UT. Accessed December 7, 2020. <https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/storm-mountain-amphitheater-big-cottonwood-canyon-ut/>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

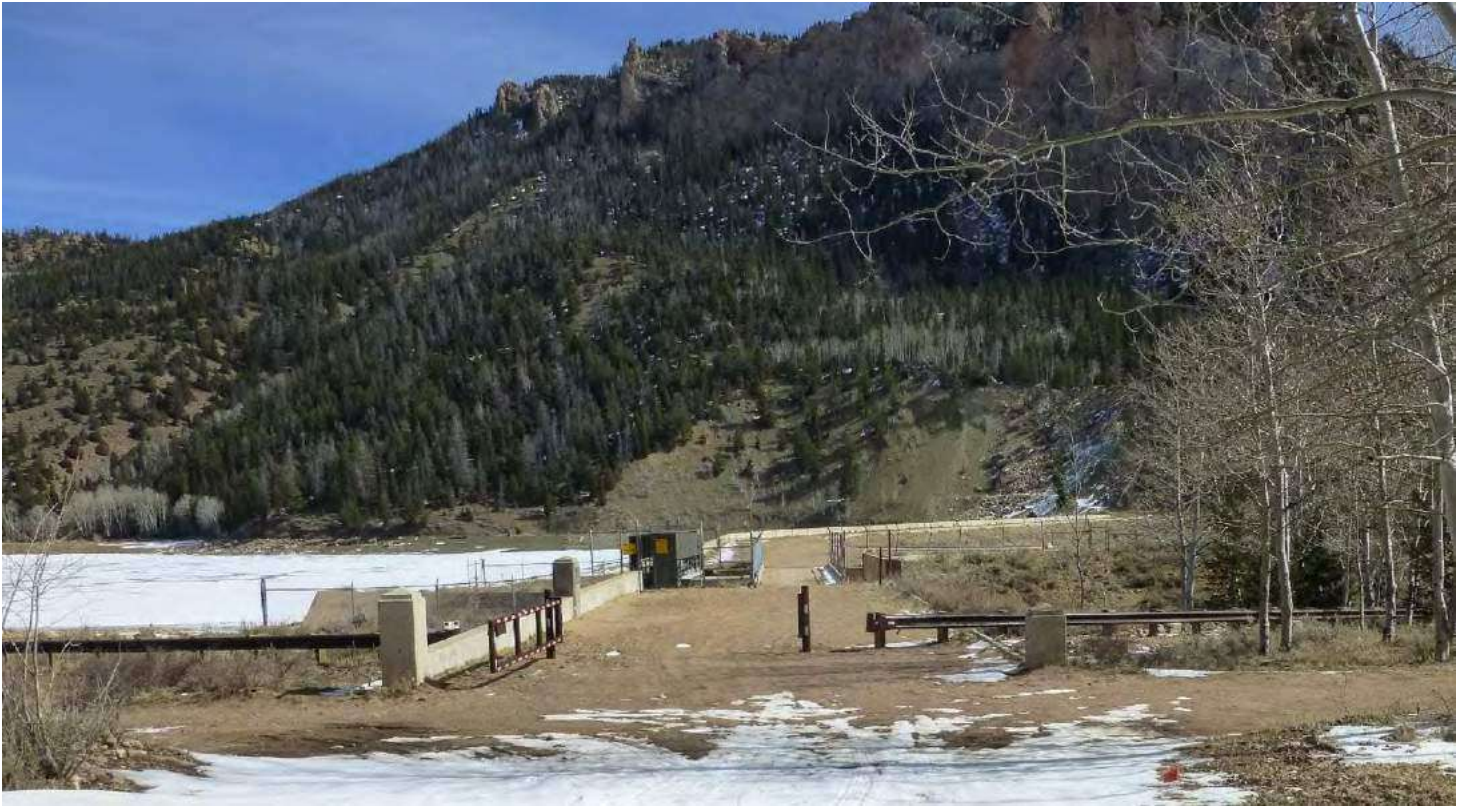


Photograph: Historic overlook on Brian Head Peak, built by CCC in 1935, Dixie National Forest, Utah.

Source: Website: The Living New Deal. Overlook Shelter on Brian Head Peak – Dixie National Forest, UT. Accessed December 7, 2020. <https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/overlook-shelter-on-brian-head-peak-dixie-national-forest-ut/>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: Moon Lake Dam, Duchesne County, Utah. Parapet (concrete curb and posts on the top of the dam) was constructed by the CCC.

Source: Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office files. Taken March 8, 2018.

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: Modern photograph of CCC built South Campground at Bryce Canyon National Park.

Source: The Living New Deal. Bryce Canyon National Park: South Campground – Bryce Canyon, UT. Accessed December 6, 2020. <https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/bryce-canyon-south-campground/>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: CCC built South Fork Ranger Station, American Fork Canyon.

Source: "CCC Slide Show South Fork Ranger Station, American Fork Canyon," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426846>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: Modern photograph of Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham City, Utah. The CCC enhanced the refuge by building roads, artificial islands for wildlife, and water control structures.

Source: Website: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. Accessed December 6, 2020.
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bear_River_Migratory_Bird_Refuge/what_we_do/resource_management.html

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: Modern photograph of culvert for main entrance road to Arches National Park.

Source: The Living New Deal. Arches National Park – Moab, Utah. Accessed December 6, 2020.
<https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/arches-national-park-moab-ut/>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



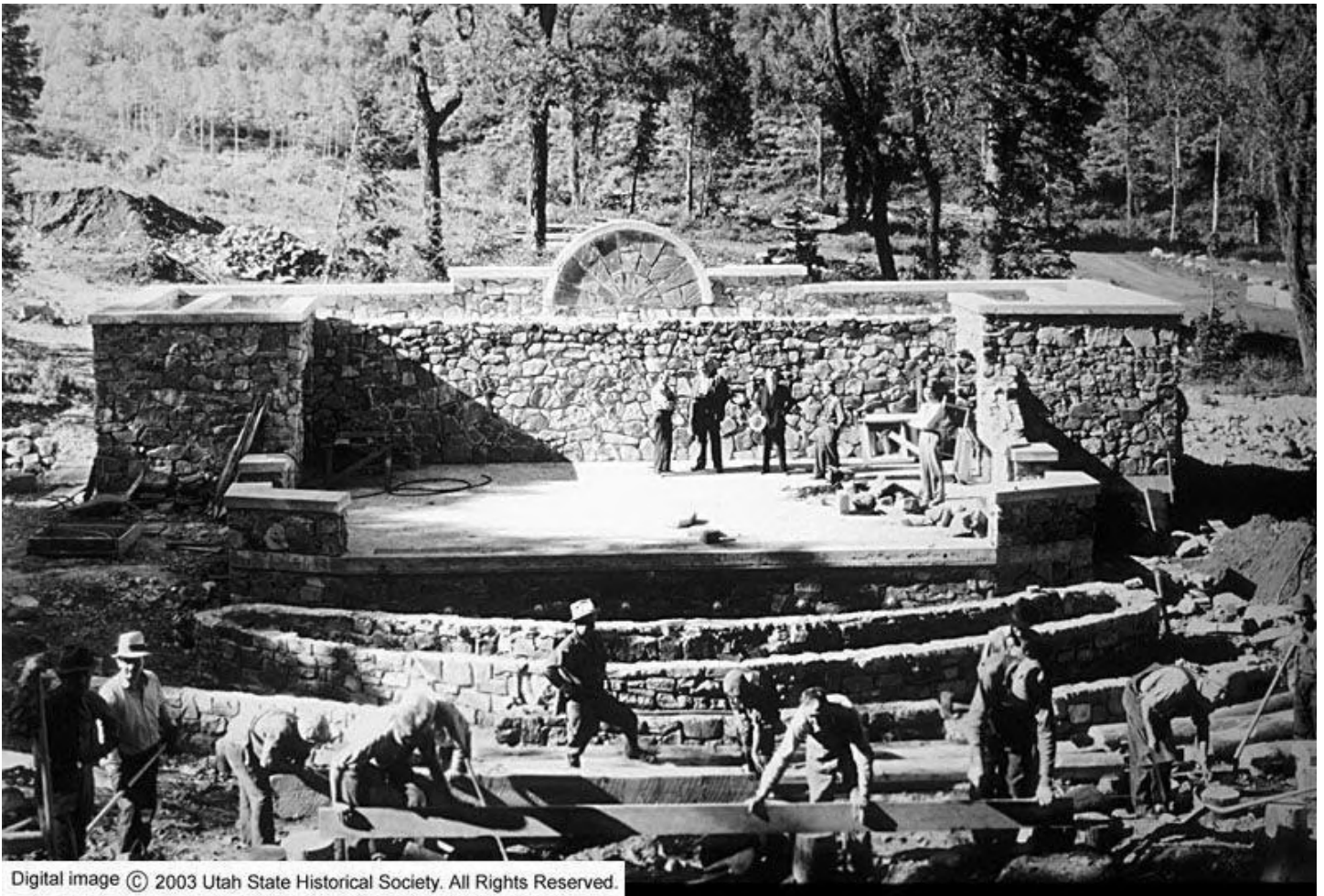
Digital image © 2003 Utah State Historical Society. All Rights Reserved.

Photograph: CCC building a dam along a river in Utah.

Source: "CCC Slide Show Jack Conway Photo," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426849&page=3&q=ccc+slide+show>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



Photograph: CCC constructing Theater-in-the-Pines Campground near the Mt. Timpanogos Aspen Grove Trail.

Source: "CCC Slide Show Theater-in-the-Pines," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426851&page=3&q=ccc+slide+show>

CCC Work Discussion Questions

- What are some specific characteristics of CCC work?
- Where did CCC men work? What sorts of tasks did they work on?
- How did this work benefit Utah communities?
- What kinds of structures were built by the CCC? What materials were used?

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

CCC Education Programs

Digital image © 2003 Utah State Historical Society. All Rights Reserved.

Busy The Bee
says: In fact,
the more things
are forbidden,
the more pop-
ular they are.



Co-Editors
Finley and Young



PUBLISHED DAILY BY CCC CO., 1968 PLEASANT GROVE, UTAH. VOL. 1 NO. 1 JANUARY 3, 1940

CLASSES FOR TONIGHT

Shorthand	6:00	Room 3
English	6:00	Room 1
Photography	6:00	Room 2
Penm. & Spelling	7:00	Room 3
English	7:00	Room 1
Photography	7:00	Room 2
Soil Conservation	8:00	Room 2

Source: Excerpt from PG Bee CCC Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 2 January 5, 1940.

<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426694&q=PG+BEE>

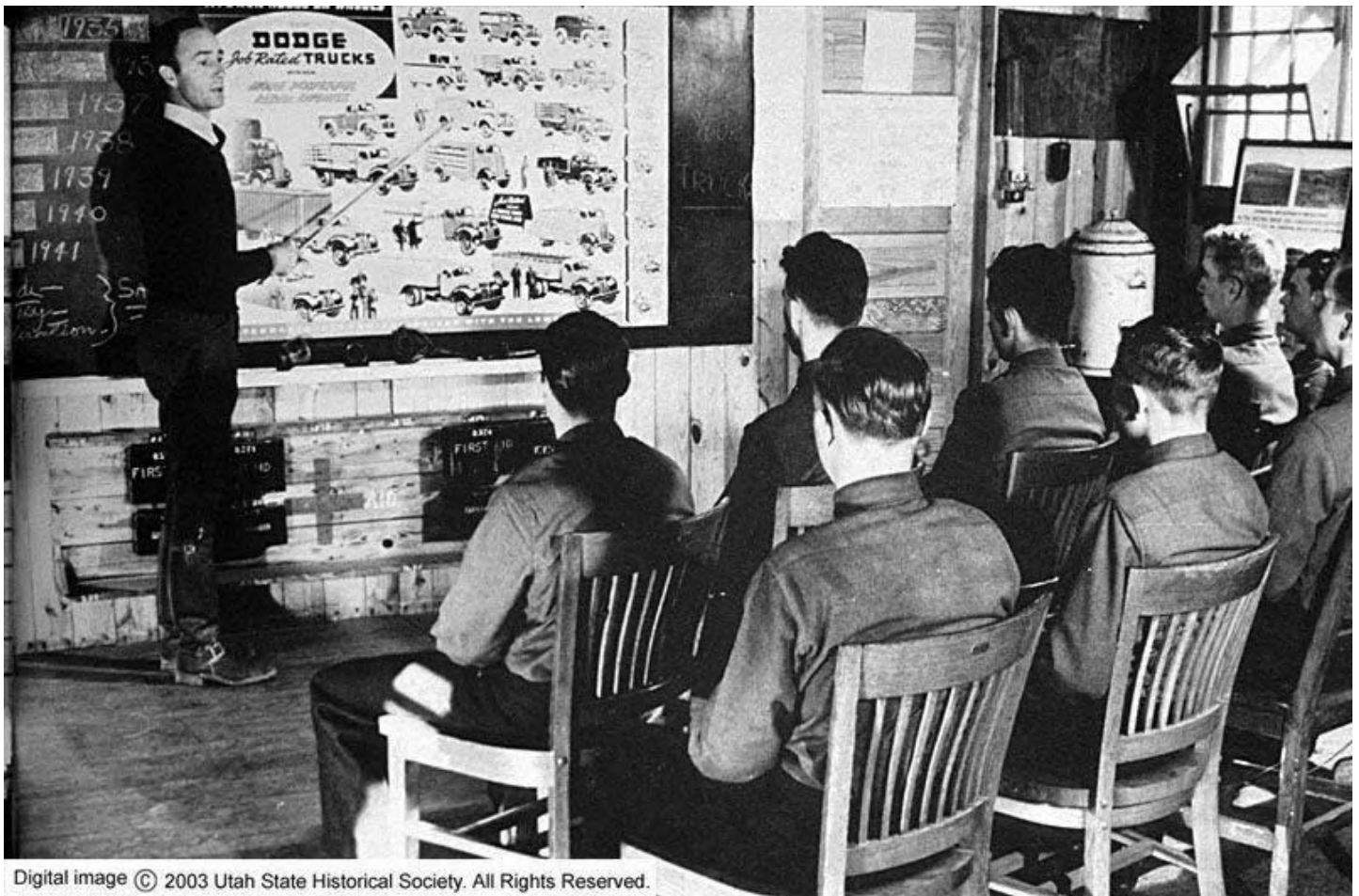
Classes for Tonight		
Dramatic Arts	6:00	Rm. 1
Spelling & Pen.	"	" 3
Etiquette	"	" 2
Photography	6,6:50,7:40	Dk. Rm
Woodworking	6,6:50,7:40	Shop
English (oral)	6:50	Rm. 1
Arts and Crafts	"	" 2
Shorthand	"	" 3
College Prep	7:40	" 3
English (voc)	"	" 1
Applied Arts	"	" 2
Geometry	6:00	Office

Source: Excerpt from PG Bee CCC Newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 14 February 21, 1940.

<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426737&q=PG+BEE>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



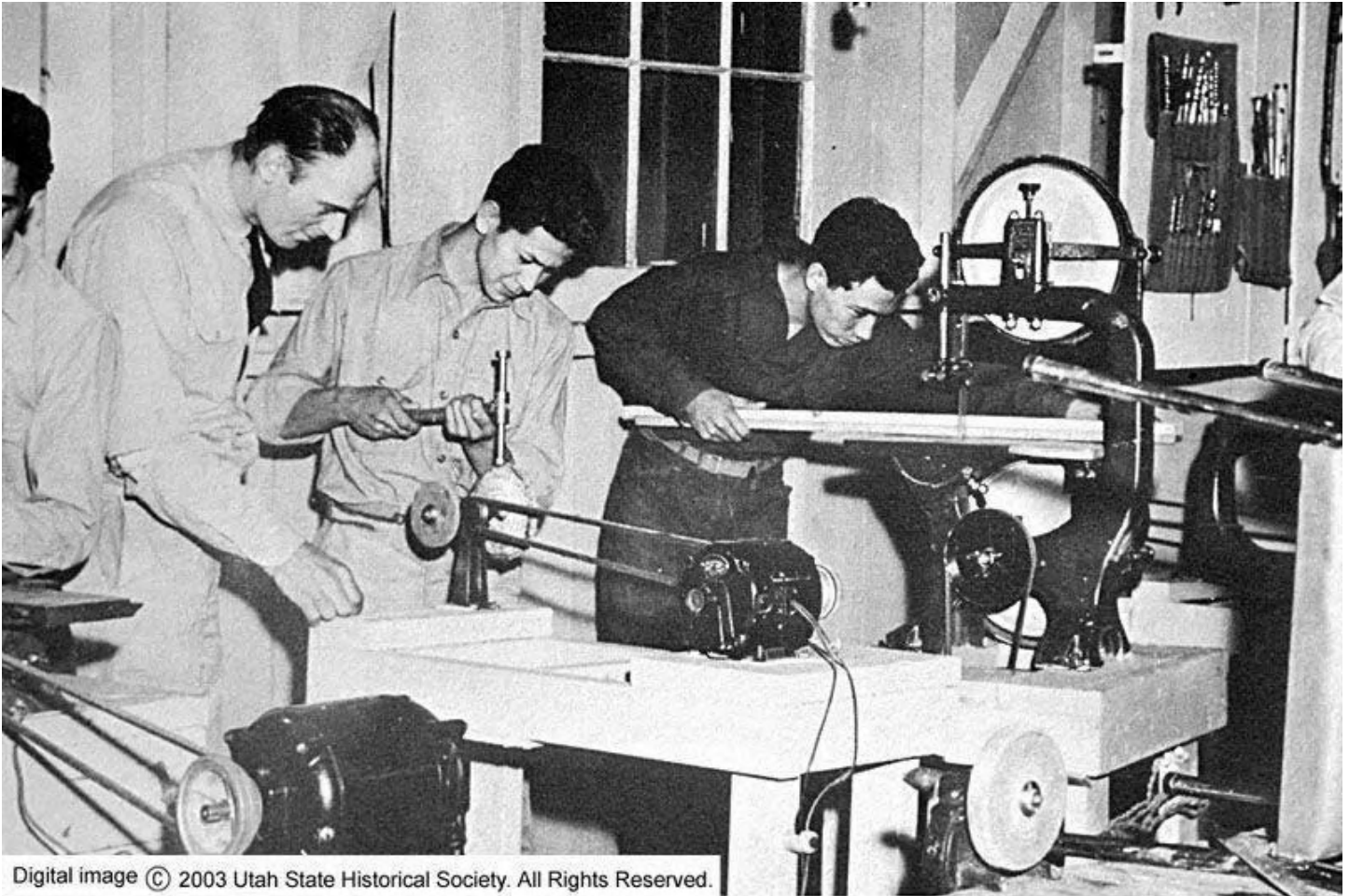
Digital image © 2003 Utah State Historical Society. All Rights Reserved.

Photograph: A classroom of CCC enrollees, learning about Dodge trucks.

Source: "CCC Slide Show, Classroom," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426834&q=ccc+slide+show>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah



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Photograph: CCC men in a woodshop class.

Source: "CCC Slide Show, Shop Class," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 1933-1942, 2003.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=426823&q=ccc+slide+show+>

CCC Education Discussion Questions

- Based on what you have learned about the CCC's philosophy and goals, why do you think they offered education classes for enrollees?
- What classes of those listed in the PG Bee would be most useful to CCC work?
- Why do you think they offered classes that were not directly useful for CCC work?
- What do you think they learned in the class about Dodge trucks?

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

BIOGRAPHY: Lyall Wilson, CCC man from Lehi, Utah, who served in Duchesne, Salina, Gunlock, and Cedar City.

Source: James F. Justin Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, <http://www.justinmuseum.com/oralbio/wilsonlyallbio.html>

In the summer of 1934 the Government started the CCC program, which looked like a pretty good thing so I went up to the Memorial Hall in Lehi and signed up for it along with a lot of other guys my age including my brother Dean. In the fall of that year I got a letter directing me to go to Provo, Utah, to get a physical examination and a written test to see if I was in good enough shape and smart enough to be admitted to this organization. A short time after this I received another letter informing me that I had been accepted and to be at the County Court House in Provo at the parking lot on October 16, 1934.

To me the following events were the happiest and some the most important of my life. I had just turned 21 and on my own now, to make my own decisions, right or wrong, I had to live by them. When we first arrived at Duchesne, Ut., I was a little frightened with it all but as I got used to being away from Dad and other members of my family, and especially my friend Audrey, I made new friends and learned to like it very much. Later when we moved to Salina, Gunlock and on to Cedar City I enjoyed every minute of it, especially the Spike Camp at Leeds and the work we were doing in the Southern end of the State, in the quaint little towns of Virgin and Toquerville, then in St. George, which at that time wasn't much larger than American Fork. This is a part of my life I doubt I will ever forget.

As I have mentioned before we all met in Provo at the County Court House parking lot. Dad took my brother Dean and I down in his car. It was early in the morning and cloudy. After we had all arrived and our names were checked off we were given a few minutes to say good-bye to our families, there was a lot of mothers and dads there in the parking lot and it was filled up it seemed to me.

The man in charge of this group finally got us all into a flatbed truck that had church or park benches, I can't remember which, down each side and a double row back to back down the middle. There was a canvas tarp across the front, down each side of the cattle truck and another across the top, but the back was open. There were around twenty-five or thirty in this group, which made a pretty good load for this truck, which was slow and didn't have very much power. When we were pretty well up Provo Canyon our feet and hands started to get cold and as you will find in every group of the older fellows said "If you think it's cold here just wait until we get up Daniels Canyon." He was right it was a lot colder but by then he comes up with "If you think it's cold now wait until we get to the Strawberry." By this time we had started to go numb with the cold. At the top of Daniels Canyon we stopped for gas at a service station and luckily there was a café next to it. I believe that is all that saved our lives we were that close to being frozen stiff by this time. After we had a cup of coffee and walked around a bit we loaded up and headed across Strawberry for Duchesne. By now we had learned that by huddling up close to each other and tamping our feet we could keep fairly warm. In Duchesne we fueled up again and had another cup of coffee and some more exercise. At the service station the truck driver got the wrong information as to where the camp was located and we went over to Myton where we stopped at another service station for more gas and this time we got the right directions to the camp, which was about twenty miles back and north of where we were. The man at the service station drew a map for the driver. We turned north and worked our way back to the west. It was pretty well along in the afternoon by now and threatening to snow. After what seemed like forever but I would say it was close to five hours we arrived at the Moon Lake Camp. The camp officials were pretty worried; they had expected us hours before. They had a warm meal ready, which had been warmed up three times. It didn't matter to us. We had not eaten anything since before daylight that morning; we ate everything they put in front of us.

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

After we had finished our meal we were assigned to a barracks and given our bedding and a straw tick mattress, the straw to fill these mattresses was out back of the mess hall. Most of us were so tired we didn't bother to fill our mattress with straw we just made our bed on our bunk and went to sleep. My brother Dean and I were assigned to different barracks so I didn't see him very often while in Moon Lake, it seemed he was always on one job while I would be on another."

Lyall Wilson Discussion Questions

- What do you think it was like for young CCC men when they first left their families for the camps?
- How do you think this experience might have been different for men traveling from out-of-state or the East?
- Why do you think Wilson says that his CCC days were some of the happiest and most important of his life and he will never forget them?
- From all that you have learned about this program, do you think that you would enjoy being in the CCC?

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

Forest Workers Develop Appetites

A check-up made by the war department for Robert Fechner, director of emergency conservation work, discloses that the reforestation army enjoys a tremendous appetite each day. The figures show that the 300,000 members of the Civilian Conservation corps consume 1,042½ carloads of bacon, beef, coffee and other foodstuffs every thirty days.

According to quantity this amounts to 1,125,000 pounds of bacon, 5,625,000 pounds of beef, 9,000,000 eggs, 5,625,000 pounds of potatoes, 2,250,000 pounds of pork, 6,750,000 pounds of flour, 1,125,000 pounds of coffee, 2,812,500 pounds of sugar, and 1,125,000 pounds of onions.

Statisticians disclose that it would require 281,250 chickens, 186,000 hogs and 9,375 steers to furnish the beef, bacon, lard and eggs needed over a thirty-day period.

Reports also show that the food consumed in an atmosphere of healthful out-door work has greatly improved the physical condition of the members of the Civilian Conservation corps, to say nothing of building up their morale. The average weight of the men in the corps has increased approximately 12 pounds each.

Another item of interest is the stimulating effect which this consumption of food has had on trade, not only in the wholesale markets, but also in communities where the camps are established. About 50 per cent of the supplies are bought locally, and in some communities the percentage is higher.

Discussion Questions

Considering this article:

- How did the CCC benefit enrollees?
- How did the CCC benefit local communities?

Newspaper Article: "Forest Workers Develop Appetites," Gunnison Valley News, September 28, 1933.

<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=3675847&q=Forest+workers+develop+appetites&sort=rel>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

Sixth Milestone Reveals Many CCC Benefits

The Civilian Conservation Corps, founded on the premises of the American Youth, endowed with the practical application to the furtherance of conservation and reclamation of America's natural resources and applied with the spirit of unity and good fellowship has for six years proved that the boys of America can be depended on to make this land a better place in which to live.

As I see it, the first aim of the CCC's is to develop the boys. In this it has succeeded by bringing boys from the cities, placing them where they have an opportunity to develop physically, mentally and spiritually in the outdoor life of camp, and at the same time be of tremendous benefit to the country by aiding individuals and communities to combat and correct, through conservation practices, the hazardous conditions brought on by soil erosion.

I have seen boys develop from raw "rooks" to skilled tradesmen—caterpillar operators, mechanics, surveyors, truck drivers. I have seen once fertile lands brought back from arid wastes, annual flood waters turned from a menace to a benefit, farm lands made to endure—all by the untiring efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The service these boys perform is of inestimable value to this country. And to me this anniversary marks the completion of another successful year in which the Civilian Conservation Corps has played an important role in aiding to control the ravages of soil erosion.

R. W. McBRIDE,
Camp Superintendent.

Discussion Questions

Considering this article:

- Who wrote the article? How might that influence the article's perspective?
- What does this author list as benefits of the CCC for enrollees?
- What benefits does this author list for Utah?

Newspaper Article: "Sixth Milestone Reveals Many CCC Benefits," Mt. Pleasant Pyramid, April 7, 1939.

<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=8928477&q=Sixth+Milestone+Reveals+Many+CCC+Benefits&sort=rel>

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

CCC Camps Are Adjusted For All-Out War Effort

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Mar. 30, 1942. CCC Camps that have been doing soil erosion work in Utah have gone on a wartime basis with camp projects being adjusted for an all-out war effort, K. C. Balcomb, regional CCC chief for the Soil Conservation Service, stated today.

Wherever possible, camps are being assigned to help the Army by building target ranges, stringing telephone lines, setting up tents, doing erosion control work at airports and laying water and gas mains. Also, by taking night courses after the regular 8-hour day, CCC enrollees are learning welding, machine shop work and other skilled trades designed to permit them to step into war production plants.

Although CCC recognizes that military needs demand first priority, enrollees not employed on military posts are continuing soil erosion work in critical farming areas, where increased production must be achieved with the least possible damage to the soil. Through the construction of terraces, irrigation ditches and intake headings, dikes, gully plugs and other soil conservation structures, CCC is helping the state in its "Food for Freedom" drive, Balcomb stated.

CCC Camp 5-U, located at Mt. Pleasant, Utah, has entered into Cooperative Agreements on 106 farms, and the Manti and Uintah National Forests, covering 213,604 acres of land on which soil conservation practices have been established. The conservation practices established on these lands consist of 112 miles of range fencing, 8 stock water developments, 875 acres of contour cultivation, 1,604 acres of contour furrows, 1,462 acres of irrigation system treatment, 2,331 acres of range seeding, 119,639 acres of controlled grazing, and 87 acres of farm terracing, besides emergency work during floods and fires which involved structures protecting cities and irrigation works and lands vital to the commonwealth of the County. The above figures are as of December 31, 1941.

A side camp of 50 enrollees, two foremen and equipment is located at Bountiful, Utah, carrying on soil conservation work on the Military Reservation at Hill Field in cooperation with the Army.

In conformity with national policy, Balcomb said, CCC is discouraging the enrollment of young men who are needed for military service, farm work, or industrial production. There continues to be a number of youths between 17 and 20, however, who are untrained for industry and too young for military service, he said, and it is this group that will profit most from a year spent in a CCC camp.

Balcomb also wished to correct the impression that CCC men are not subject to military draft. They have exactly the same status as any other civilian group, he stated.

During the nine years of its existence, CCC has created a reservoir of healthy, trained man power that is serving the nation in its war program, he declared. Enrollees have learned tractor operating, road building, blasting, welding, machine shop work, blacksmith work, clerical work, cooking, radio operating, and many other trades. Today, thousands of former CCC enrollees are serving in the armed forces or working in defense factories at skilled trades.

In addition, CCC men are built up physically through work and posture drill so that the corps is an excellent pre-conditioning unit for army service, Balcomb stated.

Transcription:

CCC Camps Are Adjusted For All-Out War Effort

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Discussion Questions

Considering this article:

- How do you think the beginning of World War II contributed to the closure of the CCC?
- How hard do you think it was for the CCC men to adapt to military life?

Newspaper Article: "CCC Camps are Adjusted for All-out War Effort," Mt. Pleasant Pyramid, April 3, 1942.

<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=8962382&page=2&q=Civilian+Conservation+Corps+1942&sort=rel>